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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06376 01 OF 02 031825Z

11

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 6376

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TAGS: EAID, EGEN, PDEV, SEDU

SUBJECT: TRIP TO NORTHERN STATES: IMPLICATIONS FOR

US RELATIONS

SUMMARY: MY RECENT WEEK'S TRAVELS IN FIVE NORTHERN STATES PRODUCED ABUNDANT EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED US PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY THAT WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO US AND NIGERIA. MANY OF COMPLICATIONS OF DOING BUSINESS IN LAGOS SINGULARLY ABSENT FROM NORTHERN REGION ENVIRONMENT. MOST SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AMBITIOUS FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS IS SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MANPOWER, OF WHICH US IS CONSIDERED MOST WELCOME SOURCE BUT TO DATE RELATIVELY UNRESPONSIVE. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT ARRANGE FOR GEORGE TRAIL EX-CONSUL KADUNA TO DISCUSS NIGERIAN NEEDS IN THIS FIELD WITH AF, PEACE CORPS AND AID DURING TRAIL'S JULY TRANSIT WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY

1. I SPENT JUNE 15-23 VISITING FIVE NORTHERN STATE CAPITALS,
COVERING 2200 MILES BY AIR AND 400 BY ROAD, ACCOMPANIED BY
KADUNA CONSUL GEORGE TRAIL WHO UTILIZED TRIP TO MAKE FAREWELL
CALLS. MET WITH MEMBERS OF
AMERICAN CITIZEN COMMUNITIES OF MAIDUGURI, SOKOTO, KANO, KADUNA,
JOS AND FUNTUA NORTHEAST OF ZARIA. ATTENDED GRADUATION CEREMONIES
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 06376 01 OF 02 031825Z

OF NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY AT KADUNA, WHERE HAD GOOD OCCASION

GET ACQUAINTED WITH MAJOR GENERAL HASSAN KATSINA (DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF SUPREME HEADQUARTERS), MAJOR GENERAL DAVID EJOOR (ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF), BRIGADIER HAROUNA (COMMANDER OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION), AND BRIGADIERS BISALLA AND JALO, RESPECTIVELY COMMANDANT AND DEPUTY COMMANDANT OF THE NDA. CALLED ON MILITARY GOVERNORS OF NORTH CENTRAL, KANO, NORTH EASTERN AND NORTH WESTERN STATES, AND MET BENUE PLATEAU GOVERNOR GOMWALK IN KADUNA. TALKED WITH PRINCIPAL STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONERS IN EACH OF FIVE CAPITALS, AS WELL AS WIDE RANGE OF PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURS, EXPATRIATES, AND SEVERAL FORMER OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS OF PRE-1966 FEDERATION. WAS ALSO RECEIVED BY THREE TRADITIONAL RULERS: SULTAN OF SOKOTO, SHEHU OF BORNO, AND CHIEF OF JOS. TRAVEL INCLUDED VISITS TO GIGANTIC EARTHEN DAM PROJECT AT TIGA SOUTH OF KANO AND TO LAKE CHAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS IN MAIDUGURI.

- 2. AF AND INR WILL BE INTERESTED TO READ CONSUL TRAIL'S THREE POUCHED MEMCONS OF PARTICULARLY REVEALING CONVERSATIONS WE HAD WITH ALHAJI INUWA WADA IN KANO, SIR KASHIM IBRAHIM IN MAIDUGURI, AND JUSTICE ALFA BELGORE IN JOS. SEE ALSO KADUNA'S A-19 JUNE 28 ENTITLED "A VIEW FROM THE NORTH."
- 3. WHILE WEEK'S TRIP PROVIDES LITTLE BASIS FOR ADDING TO ANALYSES AND PERCEPTIONS OF IMPORTANT HAUSA-FULANI NORTH WITH WHICH DEPARTMENT ALREADY FAMILIAR AS RESULT OF PREVIOUS REPORTING BY VARIOUS ELEMENTS OUR MISSION, FOLLOWING SUMMARY IMPRESSIONS MAY BE OF INTEREST:

A. VIRTUALLY ALL CONVERSATIONS FOCUSSED ON (1) IMPRESSIVE OBJECTIVES OF AMBITIOUS NEW FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS, AND (2) NORTH'S OVERWHELMING NEED FOR TRAINED MANPOWR AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PLAN TARGETS. EXPATRIATE INDIANS, EGYPTIANS AND CENTRAL EUROPEANS ALREADY MUCH IN EVIDENCE, AND ONE GETS THE FEELING THEY ARE PREFERRED OVER NIGERIAN "SOUTHRNERS". HAUSA-FULANI CULTURE PERVADES.

B. DESPERATE DRIVE IS UNDERWAY TO FIND TEACHERS OR TEACHER-TRAINERS REQUIRED FOR MASSIVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDKNATION PROGRAM. RECRUITMENT TEAMS TO US NOT REPEAT NOT SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF EFFORT FIND AMERICANS. FAILURE WIDELY ATTRIBUTED BY NIGERIAN OFFICIALS TO INABILITY OFFER SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE SALARIES. WE RECEIVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 06376 01 OF 02 031825Z

NUMEROUS QUESTIONS WHY US COULD NOT TOP OFF SALARIES AS BRITAIN DOES. ON OTHER HAND, SOME AMERICAN TEACHERS IN MAIDUGURI AND SOKOTO CRITICIZED RECRUITMENT PITCHES AS MISLEADING, CITING DISAPPOINTMENTS WHEN THEY ARRIVED ON JOB TO FIND PROMISED HOUSE AND SOMETIMES EVEN SCHOOL NOT YET CONSTRUCTED.

C. ADEQUACY OF ELECTRIC POWER AVAILABILITIES VERY MUCH IN QUESTION IN FOUR NORTHERNMOST STATES. NEW CAPACITY CURRENTLY BEING

INSTALLED AT KAINJI DAM ALREADY COMMITTED FOR THE FUTURE. ONE GETS IMPRESSION THAT INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO POWER DRAWDOWNS THAT NEW FIVE-YEAR PLANS WILL COMPEL.

D. DROUGHT YEARS ARE WELL REMEMBERED AND FEAR OF RECURRENCE OF LOW OR ERRATIC RAINFALL PATTERNS IS EVER-PRESENT. THUS PRIORITY ATTENTION BEING GIVEN THROUGHOUT NORTH TO IRRIGATION SCHEMES OF WIDE VARIETY AND EXTENT.

E. ONE IS STRUCK BY DEGREE TO WHICH EACH STATE DOING ITS OWN THING, WITHOUT APPARENT REFERENCE TO WHAT NEIGHBORING STATES MAY BE DOING IN RELATED SECTORS. SIMILARLY, VISITORS TO NORTH GET IMPRESSION NORTH EXISTS WITHOUT NEED OF OR INTEREST IN WHAT FMG IS DOING FROM LAGOS - ALTHOUGH THERE IS QUIET RECOGNITION OF ROLE FMG PLAYING IN SUCH MAJOR VENTURES AS UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION, WHERE STATES RECRUIT TEACHERS BUT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TAKES CARE OF PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE. HAUSA-FULANI REGIONAL UNITY SEEMS AS IMPORTANT IN PEOPLE'S MINDS AS NATIONAL UNITY, WITH UNDERCURRENTS OF DISDAIN OR AT VERY LEAST INDIFFERENCE TO FMG AND FEDERAL POLICIES EXCEPT WHERE THEY HAVE IMMEDIATE EASUM

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06376 02 OF 02 071017Z

11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 6376

PAYOFF IN NORTHERN STATES. (COMMENT: STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE IN FACT HAD KNUCKLES RAPPED FOR FAILURE COORDINATE WITH FMG ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.) VIEWS DIFFER WIDELY ON WHETHER OR WHEN

MILITARY RULE WILL GIVE WAY TO CIVILIANS, AS WELL AS WHETHER OR NOT COUNTRY WOULD BE IN FACT BETTER OFF IN HANDS OF CIVILIANS. ALTHOUGH ETHNIC DIFFERENCES RUN DEEP, ONE ENCOUNTERS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF SCARS FROM CIVIL WAR.

F. CONSIDERABLE RETICENCE IS DISPLAYED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ISSUE OF NEW STATES AND CHANGES IN MILITARY GOVERNORS. SOME OF RETICENCE IS DUE TO HONEST IGNORANCE OF FMG PLANNING, SOME TO DISCOMFORT OF STATE OFFICIALS FACED WITH POSSIBILITY (PARTICULARLY IN NORTH-EAST STATE) OF SEVERE CURTAILMENT OF SCOPE THIER RESPONSIBILITIES IF NEW STATES CARVED OUT OF EXISTING ENTITIES.

G. THERE APPEAR TO BE EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR US ENTERPRISE IN PRIVATE COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURING AND IN WIDE VARIETY OF CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER PUBLIC-FUNDED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS CONTAINED IN STATE GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PLANS. THERE IS READY WELCOME FOR AMERICAN ENDEAVORS THROUGHOUT NORTHER REGION, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT WOULD ACCEPT LOCAL PARTNERS AND TRAIN FUTURE MANAGERS OR TECHNICIANS. EASY ACCESS TO TOP OFFICIALS IN NORTH AND RELATIVELY SIMPLER WAYS OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE, ARE IN MARKED CONTRAST WITH THE HASSLES AND COMPLICATIONS OF LAGOS.

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 06376 02 OF 02 071017Z

H. PERMSECS AND CIVIL SERVICE, SOME OF THEM EXCEPTIONALLY ABLE, REMAIN KEY TO EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF GOVERNMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS. MANY EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENT ROLE OF US EXCHANGE PROGRAMS IN THIS CATEGORY, WAS WELL AS IN EDUCATION AND MEDIA.

I. ALSO MUCH COMMENTED THROUGHOUT NORTH IS CONTRIBUTION OF US UNIVERSITIES (PARTICULARLY PITTSBURGH, WISCONSIN AND KANSAS STATE) TO EDUCATIONAL INSITIUTIONS IN AREA AS WELL AS MANY EXCELLENT INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCES BY NORTHERNERS AT US INSTITUTIONS. ONE IS IMPRESSED IN JOS BY EXCELLENT RELATIONS THAT LARGE AMERICAN MISSIONARY

COMMUNITY ENJOYS WITH BENUE PLATEAU STATE OFFICIALS.

J. COMMUNICATIONS REVOLUTION DRAMATICALLY ILLUSTRATED BY
TELEVISION PLANNING AND ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY IN EACH STATE. RCA
INSTALLING COLOR IN NORTH WESTERN STATE. I APPEARED ON HALF-HOUR
INTERVIEW OVER BP STATE TELEVISION IN JOS IN SUPERBLY ENGINEERED
AND FUNCTIONING STUDIO THAT WOULD BEAR COMPARISON WITH ANY
METROPOLITAN STATION IN US. OUR USIS OUTPUT INCREASINGLY
GEARED TO EXPANDING ROLE OF TV THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

4. CONCLUSION: THERE WOULD APPEAR BE SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER US PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN THESE FIVE NORTHERN STATES, WHICH CONTAIN WELL OVER HALF OF NATION'S ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 80 MILLION IN AN AREA EQUIVALENT TO NEW HAMPSHIRE, VERMONT, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW JERSEY, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, KENTUCKY, OKLAHOME AND ARIZONA. REGION RELATIVELY NEGLECTED TO DATE BY AMERICAN COMPANIES, WHO HAVE TENDED TO CLUSTER AROUND PETROLEUM

BUSINESS AND SPIN-OFFS FROM IT. PARTICULAR VOID THAT NORTHERNERS
WISH SEE FILLED IS IN TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND TRAINED MANPOWER SECTOR.

WHERE DESIRE FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL IS OPENLY ARTICULATED AT ALL LEVELS. NORTHERNERS ARE GROPING FOR BETTER MECHANISMS OR CHANNELS FOR IDENTIFYING AND ENGAGING SUCH PERSONNEL. SEVERAL NORTHERNERS MENTIONED PREVIOUS PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCE IN NIGERIA, INDICATING INTEREST IN SOMETHING SIMILAR PROVIDED PERSONNEL WERE EXPERT, MATURE AND APOLITICAL. I GET IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT WHAT THEY REALLY WANT IS RECRUITMENT SERVICE TO FIND MATURE TALENT THAT THEY WOULD PAY. CHARITY IS OUT, EXCEPT FOR TOPPING OFF AS NECESSARY. COMMENT: I NOTE ASIODU'S STATEMENT TO NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK JUNE 17 THAT IN ADDITION OT 20,000 EXPATRIATES ALREADY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 06376 02 OF 02 071017Z

IN NIGERIA, NIGERIA WOULD NEED 50,000 MORE PROFESSIONALS AND MANAGERS AND 140,000 MORE INTERMEDIATE GRADE TECHNICIANS AND SUPERVISORS IN ORDER ESTABLISH AND RUN THE PROJECTS FORESEEN BY THE THIRD PLAN.)

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GEORGE TRAIL, DEPARTING CONSUL KADUNA, WILL BE IN WASHINGTON AREA FOR SEVERAL DAYS FROM JULY 6. I HAVE ASKED HIM BE PREPARED BEIEF AF ON QUESTION OF NIGERIAN NEEDS FOR TRAINED MANPOWER. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD ARRANGE FOR HIM TO MEET WITH ANDY BELL AND IF POSSIBLE PC DIRECTOR DELLENBACH. PARTICIPATION BY AID PERSONNEL IN THAT CONVERSATION WOULD BE HELPFUL. I WOULD ALSO HOPE ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS WOULD HAVE TIME FOR BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH TRAIL, WHO HAS PERFORMED SUPERBLY AT KADUNA AND IS EXCELLENT SOURCE OF WISDOM ON NATURE AND FUTURE OF US RELATIONSHIP WITH NIGERIA. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR AF TO BRIEF TRAIL ON JOINT COOPERATION COMMISSION CONCEPT AND SEEK HIS VIEWS ON RELEVANCE OF CONCEPT FOR US-NIGERIAN RELATIONS AS PERCEIVED IN NORTHERN REGION. EASUM

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